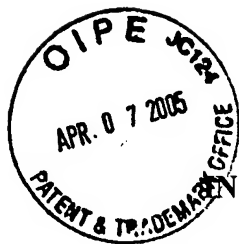


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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 -
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 3679
PATENT**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/696,815
Applicant(s): Jayant D. Patel, et al.
Filed: October 30, 2003
Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: David Bochna
Title: A SLEEVE FOR JOINING AND SEALING CONDUITS

Confirmation No.: 1312

Docket No.: 038190/270421
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 15, 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is submitted to supplement the prior response to the final Official Action that was filed on February 15, 2005. No new matter or issues are raised by this Amendment. Instead, this Supplemental Amendment places the application in condition for immediate allowance by canceling the claims that are rejected or that stand rejected.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.